



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

NHCP-1AI

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES

450 – VI

NOTICE 139

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised conservation practice standards for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included for clarification.

Effective Date. This notice is effective when received.

Explanation. New or revised National Conservation Practice Standards (NCPS):

Alley Cropping (Code 311): Several new purpose statements were added to this conservation practice standard. Editorial changes were made to the criteria with a new section of additional criteria to reduce surface water runoff and erosion. Changes and additions were also made to the considerations and operation and maintenance sections.

Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (Code 329): A sentence has been added to the "Conditions Where Practice Applies" section that describes the types of equipment and field operations that are acceptable for this practice. If a State has already revised their practice standard, they may add this sentence as a "pen-and-ink" change to it.

Prescribed Burning (338): Significant changes were made to the conditions where practice applies section. Some editorial changes were made to the criteria and considerations. The plans and specifications section was expanded.

Multi-Story Cropping (379): This is a new standard providing guidance when two or more crops are grown under a canopy. Applications include forest farming and tropical agroforestry.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380): A minor editorial change was made to the practice definition and several new purposes were added. The criteria were expanded to reflect the added purposes. Several additions were also made to the "considerations where practice applies" section.

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DIST: S, R, L, and National Center Directors

Riparian Forest Buffer (391): A minor change was made to the definition for clarification. Several new purpose statements were added to the standard to address wildlife habitat and corridors, provide for harvesting products, scour erosion, and restoring plant communities.

Minor editorial changes were made to the general criteria but additional criteria were developed for aquatic organisms and wildlife habitat and runoff of nutrients, sediments, pesticides, etc. Criteria for Zone 3 were referred to the Filter Strip conservation practice standard.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490): The title of this standard has changed from “Forest Site Preparation” to clarify that the practice pertains to the appropriate preparation activities and intensities to establish trees and/or shrubs regardless of the land use or landscape position. The definition, purposes and conditions where practice applies were simplified. Several editorial changes were made to the criteria. New considerations were also added.

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612): The definition of this standard was expanded to list the methods used for tree/shrub establishment. The purposes for the practice were expanded to encompass emerging technology and issues such as carbon sequestration and waste utilization. The criteria and considerations were changed to support the purpose changes.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650): The definition was expanded for clarification. Several minor editorial changes were made to the criteria. Some additions were also made to the considerations and operational and maintenance sections.

Forest Trails and Landings (655): The definition was changed to broaden the scope. Trails for recreation and general forest management were added as purposes. Additional criteria and considerations were added to support the changes in definition and purpose.

Tree/Shrub Pruning (660): The practice standard purpose statements were expanded beyond improvement of wood quality, such as improved nut or fruit production, better growth and vigor of understory plants, and improved plant appearance or density. The design criteria and planning considerations were each expanded. The steps describing how to prune were removed.

Forest Stand Improvement (666): This standard was revised by expanding the purpose statements for the practice and the general criteria were clarified and expanded. Several new planning considerations were also added.

Instructions. Replace the Contents pages i through vi dated August 2005 in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages.

Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised Contents pages.

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the practice standards for: Alley Cropping (Code 311) dated October 2003, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (Code 329) dated May 2006 (If a state has already revised their practice standard since the release of NHCP Notice 138 was released, they may add this sentence as a "pen-and-ink" change to the eFOTG version), Prescribed Burning (Code 338) dated August 2000, Windbreak/Shelterbelt

Establishment (Code 380) dated October 2003, Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391) dated October 2003, Forest Site Preparation (Code 490) dated October 2003, Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) dated October 2003, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Code 650) dated October 2003, Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655) dated August 2000, Tree/Shrub Pruning (Code 660) dated October 2003, and Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666) dated October 2003.

Copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State offices (or equivalent) and National Centers. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1AI from the NRCS Publications webpage at: <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or by calling 1-888-LANDCAR.

This notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS homepage on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Standards/nhcp.html> or from the FTP server at <ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/>

Federal Register Notices.

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the *Federal Register* in April 2006. Comments from the public were accepted for 30 days.

Guidance to the States can be found in Title 450, Technology, GM, Section 401.19 for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State technical guides.

DAVID D. THACKERAY
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Attachments

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